Modification to export licensing policies

1487. DR. T. SUBBARAMl REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. has agreed to ease export controls on Indian Civilian nuclear and space facilities after PM's visit to USA;

(b) if so, whether U.S. have made modification to U.S. export licensing policies that will foster cooperation in commercial space programmes and permit certain exports to power plants at safeguarded nuclear facilities;

(c) if so, whether this modification also include removing ISRO headquarters from so-called Entity List of Department of Commerce; and'

(d) if so, to what extent it would be helpful for India and whether all negotiations in this regard have fully settled?

THEMINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The completion of Phase One of Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) was announced in a Joint Statement on 17 September, 2004 during Foreign Secretary's visit to US. It was just before the PM's visit to USA. These efforts have enabled the U.S. to make modifications to US export licensing policies that will foster cooperation in commercial space programs and permit certain exports to power plants at safeguarded nuclear facilities.

(c) Yes Sir, ISRO Headquarters has been removed from the U.S. Department of Commerce Entity List.

(d) The move would definitely improve the predictability and levels of approvals for export. Since January, 2004, the two Governments have worked closely to conclude Phase One of the NSSP. This has included implementation of measures to address export control concerns. Since then two meetings-one in New Delhi on Oct. 21 and the other in Washington on Nov. 18 have taken place of the Implementation Group of NSSP to explore ways to move into the next phase.

Pal(istan President's statement regarding Indo-Palt *ta\ks*

1488. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent